

## **TANF SERVICES FUNDED IN WISCONSIN**

### **TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

#### Program Description:

W-2 agencies use innovative methods to meet participant transportation needs such as arranging van pools, setting up volunteer driver programs, accessing loan resources for personal vehicle purchase and repair, encouraging employer-based transportation programs, expanding transit hours and service areas and hiring transportation coordinators.

DWD also operates the Job Ride Program in Milwaukee County. This reverse commute vanpool program provides transportation assistance to low income, central city workers trying to access suburban jobs. The employers targeted are not currently accessible by public transportation or other means of regularly scheduled transit. This program is funded primarily with state dollars, though DWD has set-aside some TANF dollars to help expand the program the last several years to increase the focus on low-income workers.

DWD has created a joint grant program with the Department of Transportation (DOT), called the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP), to use those TANF funds along with local dollars and some DOT dollars to draw down Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) dollars from the Federal Transit Administration. The grant program began April 1, 2000. Local agencies, authorities, non-profits, and tribal governing agencies are eligible to apply and local collaboration between all interested parties is required for needs assessment, plan development, and local implementation. Applicants are required to demonstrate a quantifiable need for assistance and develop a detailed action plan to serve the TANF population. The plan requires input from employers and potential participants. Currently, WETAP is funding over 50 projects in 45 counties throughout Wisconsin.

#### Client Group Served:

Because there are a mix of funding sources, eligibility criteria are varied which allows for increased flexibility at the local level. With regard to the TANF dollars, all current and potential W-2 participants, food stamp recipients and others receiving supportive services, whose gross income is at or below 200 percent of the FPL, and have at least one dependent, are eligible for assistance. WETAP further enhances the strong commitment Wisconsin has made to helping low income families overcome the employment transportation barrier. Because WETAP combines multiple funding sources, it allows greater flexibility among program beneficiaries.

#### Critical Indicators:

JobRide provides approximately 40,000 total trips in an average year, other vanpool programs about 30,000. TANF dollars have provided hundreds of grants or loans for car repairs, dozens of car loans, thousands of trips via volunteer drivers, and at least 60,000 childcare trips. Transit expansions have provided over 300,000 additional bus and 3,000 taxi trips per year.

**TOTAL TANF FUNDING: \$2,000,000**